

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE: METHOD & EXEMPTION 3028
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2008

19 Januari 1953
A. 3533.

Country	: Austria
Kind of information	: Political
Subject	: Reports on the Communist Party and its satellite organisations and on some other political movements in Austria.
Date of observation	: Mainly last quarter of 1952.
Place of observation	: Vienna
Reference	: My A 3207 of 17 November 1952.
Source	: 72

I regret that I did not yet receive an answer to my letter mentioned above. The reports I receive from this source are very detailed, so much so that I am afraid to cause you too much worry in sending you all these. That is the reason why I am still hoping to receive an answer from you to my letter of 17 November 1952.

In the meantime I should like to draw your attention to the fact that I have again some 16 reports ready on similar subjects from the same source. They concern the following subjects.

1. Political situation at the Ministry of the Interior in Vienna. Efforts of Minister HELMER to appoint socialist functionaries at the Ministry. Hardly any resistance of the OVP-Secretary of State for the Interior, Ferdinand GRAP. Details about the character of GRAP. (End of October 1952, 4 pages).
2. The governmental crisis in the second half of October 1952 seen through rightish eyes. This report accuses the socialists of corruption, scandals and high treason. The rôle of the Austrian socialists in foreign countries, e.g. of Dr. Julius BRAUNTHAL in London. It is a rather tendentious report. (End of October 1952, 7 1/2 pages).
3. Arrests of Russian officers in Lower Austria between 9 and 15 October 1952. Stricter control on Russian military persons; nervousness among Russian officers in Baden. It is supposed that a conspiracy has been detected. A short report of half a page.
4. Information about the "Verband der Unabhängigen". A supporter of Greater Germany, ERNST KESSELBACH, a former German lieutenant-colonel, has been appointed successor of Herbert KRAUSS. Greater German traditions in Austria (the former "Nationalistische Block" of Johann SCHÖBER). Austria's interest in good relations with Germany. Some remarks on the "Austrian delegation" in West-Berlin. (End of October 1952, 1 1/2 pages).

RI COPY

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- 2 -

A. 3533.

5. A comprehensive report of 9 pages on schooling in the KFO. Basic-schooling begun on 22 September 1952. The KFO asserts that 45,000 persons have entered their names for this schooling. A rather high and probably exaggerated number. This report contains:
 - a. Introduction.
 - b. Previous history of this basic schooling: Conference at Bucharest, April 1952. This conference was attended by Frana MAREK, Franz WEST and Friedl TURNBERG as representatives of the KFO.
 - c. Frana MAREK gives an account of the conference in the Central Committee of the KFO.
 - d. The Organisation of the schooling.
6. More details about schooling in the KFO in Vienna. Organisation. Data of some persons. (November 1952, 3 pages).
7. The "Osterreichisch-Sowjetische Gesellschaft". Short data of this society. A number of names of local leaders (Autumn 1952, 1 1/2 pages).
8. The "Nationale Liga" after the release of SLAVIK. Internal purge of the Executive Committee of the N.L. Dismissal of Dr. WETTINGER from this Executive Committee. Expulsion of Dr. ROLLAND (Landesleiter of the N.L. in Styria) out of the N.L. and the succession of Dr. WETTINGER to the Landesleitung of Styria. Dismissal of the private secretary of the N.L., Frau GRASSER; reason: no adequate funds. The total number of members of the N.L. fell down from more than 600 to about 550. After the dismissal of Dr. WETTINGER FRUGER, HAUER and SLAVIK are now in control of the Executive Committee. (October 1952, 3 pages).
9. A short information on the influence of the KFO on the Vienna Administration of Justice through communist relations in the police. (End of October, 1/2 page).
10. Two trends in the KFO:
 - a) ex-emigrants in the Soviet Union and
 - b) persons who stayed in Austria during "Anschluss" and war. Frana HAIDER as a representative of the second group. His career and his rise during last year. (November 1952, 4 pages).
11. Speculations in rightish political circles on the possible formation of a new government after the coming elections. (Beginning of December 1952, 3 pages).
12. Continuation of the above mentioned report (no. 11) with some short notes about the propaganda activities of the various parties. (End of December 1952, 1 1/2 pages).
13. The "Nationale Liga":
 - a) Names and data of 9 functionaries of the N.L. (4 pages)
 - b) "Nachrichtendienst" and "Einsatzgruppen" of the N.L. (5 pages) (Summer and autumn 1952).

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

- 3 - A. 3533.

14. Relation between the KPO and the "Volksopposition".
Expectations in communist circles in November 1952 were that the coming elections might result in the new bloc of communist and extreme leftish parties obtaining 10 seats. (This seems highly improbable). Disagreement in the Democratic Union about the attitude of Prof. DOERFEBERGER and his relations with the KPO.
15. Data of Heinrich WINTER, functionary on the "Wiener Landesleitung" of the KPO and also functionary of the World Federation of Trade Unions (W.F.T.U.) (1 1/2 pages).
16. Report about discussions in the "Wiener Stadtleitung" of the KPO (October 1952). Dissatisfaction about the cautious policy of the KPO. The leaders answer that the party must always be on its guard against provocations.